

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN OCTOBER 2005

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in October was 2.85 million metric tons (Mt), which was 17% lower than in the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The large decrease was the result of seasonal mining reductions in Idaho and Utah. Production through October was 9% higher than for the same period in 2004.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in October was 2.9 Mt, a 10% decrease from that of September. U.S. producer stocks were slightly lower than in September. Imports of phosphate rock were estimated based on U.S. Census Bureau figures and data from the Moroccan producer, because

Census suppressed some phosphate rock import data for Morocco. The Moroccan producer supplies more than 99% of the phosphate rock imported by the United States. In addition, Census trade data were not available for the current month. The USGS estimated that imports of phosphate rock have averaged about 240,000 metric tons per month in 2005.

Domestic apparent consumption for 2004 was 38.3 Mt. Apparent consumption for 2005 was projected to be 40.4 Mt based on annualized sold or used data and estimated imports. Annualized data are based on the current average monthly rate of consumption projected for the remainder of the current year.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks ²
2004:			
January-October	29,200	W	XX
October	2,710	W	7,180
November	3,530	3,630	7,170
December	2,900	W	7,020
January-December	35,700	35,800	XX
2005:			
January	3,060	2,830	7,130
February	2,860	2,790	7,100
March	3,160	3,240	6,990
April	3,000	3,160	6,910
May	3,480	3,070	7,310
June	3,100	3,050	7,360
July	3,350	3,500	7,220
August	3,480	3,490	7,140
September	3,420	3,220	7,410
October	2,850	2,900	7,400
Total	31,800	31,200	XX

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
2004:		
January-September	1,110	41,100
September	118	4,990
October	137	5,240
November	80	2,190
December	150	5,470
January-December	1,600	58,900
Total year ³	2,500	91,300
2005: ⁴		
January	140	5,160
February	143	6,190
March	48	1,300
April	183	8,440
May	227	11,000
June	184	8,420
July	103	4,840
August	66	1,810
September	158	5,520
Total	1,250	52,700

¹Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

⁴Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2003	2004	2005 ^{e, 1}
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	29.1	30.3	W
Idaho and Utah	5.0	5.4	W
Total ²	34.1	35.7	38.2
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	30.2	30.8	W
Idaho and Utah	5.2	5.0	W
Total ²	35.4	35.8	37.6
Yearend stocks	7.3	7.0	7.4
Exports reported by producers	W	--	--
Average value per ton	W	--	--
Imports for consumption ^e	2.4	2.5	2.8
Average value per ton	\$35.55	\$36.50	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e, 3}	37.8	38.3	40.4

^eEstimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

¹Annualized data.

²Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.